over the country by the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA) in the year 2005-06 are:

(i) In Primary Schools, the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) was 103.77% compared to 97.82% GER in 2004-05.

(ii) In Primary Schools, percentage of the Girls Enrolment and Gender Party Index (GPI) was 47.79 and 0.92 respectively in 2005-06 as compared to 47.52 and 0.90 in the year 2004-05. Further details can be seen at website www.dpepmis.org.

(b) The UNESCO Education for All Global Monitoring Report-2007 is not India specific. However, references have been made to India throughout the Report. As per the report India ranks 99th in the list with a composite Education for All Development Index (EDI) of 0.789.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) has made considerable progress in enhancing access to elementary education. From 4.4 crore children who were out of school in 2001, the number came down to 1.34 crore by July-August 2005 and has further come down to 70.5 lakhs in March 2006. This figure constitutes the "hard to reach" group of children.

Vocational education in schools

4169. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan under Government's consideration to promote vocational education in schools;

(b) if so, the budgetary allocations for Eighth, Ninth, and Tenth Five Year Plans for vocational education in schools, State-wise;

(c) the total sanctioned and filled-in strength of vocational educational teachers in different categories, State-wise;

(d) the number of students who have taken vocational education in Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Five year Plans; and

(e) the concrete steps Government propose to take to promote new schemes for promotion of vocational education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) The

Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "Vocationalisation of Secondary Education", which was started in 1988 is meant to promote vocational education in the higher secondary stage.

(b) The budgetary allocation for Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Five Year Plans for the scheme of "Vocationalisation of Secondary Education" were Rs. 410.00 crore, Rs. 100.00 crore and Rs. 350.00 crore respectively. No State-wise allocation was made.

(c) to (e) The schools/institutions imparting vocational education are under the purview of the respective State Governments and the details of the different categories of teachers/students enrolment is not being maintained centrally by the Ministry. The Ministry considers inclusion of new courses in vocational education from time to time based on the proposals from State Governments.

Literacy in Jharkhand

4170. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the literacy rate of Jharkhand;

(b) the reason for the high percentage of school drop-outs;

(c) the reason for universalizing mid-day meals to lure and keep the children in schools;

(d) the teacher-pupil ratio and classroom-pupil ratio in Jharkhand; and

(e) the figures during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) According to 2001 census, the literacy rate of Jharkhand was 54.13%.

(b) Lack of awareness among parents, inadequate infrastructure facilities and other basic amenities in schools, socio-economic status of families and migration affect the drop-out rate of school children.

(c) The National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid-day Meal Scheme), 2006 seeks to:-

(i) Improve the nutritional status of children in classes I - V in Government, Local Body, Government aided schools and